

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for attaching two surfaces to each other or for coating a surface, consisting of:

an acidic aqueous solution of a bioadhesive polyphenolic protein derived from a byssus-forming mussel which protein comprises 30-300 amino acids and consists essentially of tandemly linked peptide repeats comprising 3-15 amino acid residues, said acidic solution containing at least one of an organic acid or an inorganic acid, wherein,

at least 3% of the amino acid residues of said bioadhesive polyphenolic protein are L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine;

the pH of said acidic solution is less than 2.5 ~~or less~~; and

the concentration of said bioadhesive polyphenolic protein is 18-100 mg/ml.

Claim 2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the acidic solution comprises an acid chosen from the group consisting of citric acid, acetic acid, and ascorbic acid.

Claim 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the surfaces to be attached or the surface to be coated is a biological surface.

9. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the surfaces to be attached or the surface to be coated is a non-biological surface.

10. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein 6-30% of the amino acid residues of said bioadhesive polyphenolic protein are L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine.